

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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FOLLOWING SENT AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAHRAN JERUSALEM JIDDA KUWAIT

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SANA BY POUCH FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 12 MAR 73:

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY ROGERS APPEARANCE ON " FACE THE NATION"

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL

EXCERPT FROM SECRETARY ROGERS " FACE THE NATION" APPEARANCE

OF MARCH 11, 1973:

QUOTE: KEAT: MR. SECRETARY, THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW HAD
WHAT HE CALLED HIS MIDEAST MONTH OF CONSULTATIONS WITH ARAB
AND ISRAELI LEADERS. HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS CARRIED THE
MOVEMENT TOWARD SOME KIND OF NEGOTIATION ANY CLOSER?

SEC. ROGERS: WELL, WE' VE HAD A VERY GOOD ROUND OF DISCUS-
SIONS WITH THE KING OF JORDAN; WITH MR. ISMAIL, WHO' S
PRESIDENT SADAT' S CHIEF ASSISTANT; AND WITH PRIME MINISTER
MEIR. WE' VE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE
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DISCUSSIONS, AND WE THINK THAT THERE IS A DESIRE ON THE PART OF EVERYONE TO TRY TO WORK OUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE PROBLEM IS TO-- HOW TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

KEAT: DO YOU THINK THEY' LL START THIS YEAR?

SEC. ROGERS: OH, I WOULD NOT WANT TO MAKE A PREDICTION. WE' RE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SEE IF WE CAN GET THEM STARTED.

HERMAN: IS THERE A DESIRE ON THEIR PART TO HAVE THE UNITED STATES MEDIATE AND TO WORK ON THIS PROBLEM?

SEC. ROGERS: WELL, I THINK SO. THERE' S CERTAINLY A DESIRE ON THE PART OF ISRAEL, AND EGYPT FROM TIME TO TIME HAS SAID THAT THEY FELT VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE. IN FACT, THAT' S HOW WE GOT STARTED IN IT, ON THE QUESTION OF THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE HOPED WE COULD PLAY A ROLE.

HERMAN: MR. SISCO, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, OR ASSISTANT OF STATE, RATHER, FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS AMONG OTHERS, SAID ON THIS PROGRAM SOME WEEKS AGO THAT HE THOUGHT THE GROUNDWORK AND THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR A MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE. MRS. MEIR, THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, SAID THE FOLLOWING WEEK THAT SHE SAW NO CHANGE, NO MOVEMENT OF ANY KIND. WHAT DO YOU SEE?

SEC. ROGERS: WELL, I THINK WHAT SHE HAD REFERENCE TO-- AND THAT' S OF COURSE THE TRUTH-- THAT IS, THAT THERE' S NO SPECIFIC INITIATIVE AND NO COMPLETE CHANGE IN THE NEGOTIATING POSITION. BUT IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL CLIMATE, I NOTICED AN IMPROVEMENT. I THINK MR. SISCO IS RIGHT. IN THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAD WITH MR. ISMAIL, FOR EXAMPLE, HE HIMSELF SAID THAT HE WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY THOSE DISCUSSIONS. END QUOTE. ROGERS UNQUOTE

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